

'Avifauna Columbiana,' state (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. No. 26, 1883, p. 81): "It was rare in 1862, having already responded . . . to the encroachment of the city upon its favorite haunts. . . . The only one we remember to have ever seen alive was in a piece of heavy timber known as 'Gales' Woods'; but that was about 1857 or 1858." They state further: "Mr. Shoemaker informs us that one was seen a year or two ago," which was in 1881 or 1882. As there was no locality given with this last record, it is somewhat difficult to say whether the bird recorded was seen within the District or in the surrounding country, as the authors in listing the rarer species, frequently gave records for the vicinity as well. However, giving the record the benefit of the doubt, it is quite safe to assert that until the bird forming the subject of this note made its appearance, the species had not been observed for the past 21 or 22 years.—GEORGE W. H. SOELNER, *Washington, D. C.*

Empidonax griseus Brewst. = *E. canescens* Salv. & Godm.—In the 'Biologia,' II, p. 79, March, 1889, Salvin and Godman described *Empidonax canescens* from specimens taken at Mexicalcingo and various other places near the City of Mexico.

In 'The Auk' for April of the same year (p. 87), Mr. Brewster described *Empidonax griseus* from specimens taken at La Paz, Lower California.

The Biological Survey Collection contains specimens of *canescens* from near the type locality in the Valley of Mexico which have recently been compared with the type by Dr. Sharpe and his assistant, Mr. Chubb, of the British Museum, and pronounced to be identical with it.

Before these specimens were sent for comparison with the type of *canescens* they were compared by Mr. Brewster with the type of *griseus* and pronounced to be indistinguishable. It follows, therefore, that *griseus* and *canescens* apply to the same bird, and the latter name has a month's priority.

The range of *E. canescens* extends from southern Puebla through the Valley of Mexico northwesterly to southern Sonora, and from Cape St. Lucas north through Lower California into southern California.—E. W. NELSON, *Biological Survey, Washington D. C.*

A Preoccupied Generic Name.—Mr. G. E. Shelley in Vol. III of his 'Birds of Africa' (London, 1902) finds a new genus *Botha* (to Louis Botha) for a new species of Lark from the Orange River Colony,—*Botha difficilis*. Nearly a century ago Rafinesque (Caratteri di Alcuni Nuovi Generi, etc., 1810, p. 23) proposed the generic name *Bothus* for flounders allied to the European turbot (*Pleuronectes*). As these two terms (*Bothus* and *Botha*) are practically almost identical, it would be better to drop *Botha* and take for this Lark another generic name, for instance *Dewetia* (to Christian De Wet, another gallant Oranjestaat chief).—S. A. BUTURLIN, *Wesenberg, Esthonia, Russia.*